**Application No.:** 09/690,183

Office Action Dated: February 23, 2004

## REMARKS

## Status of the Application

Claims 1-9 and 11-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4, 7-9 and 11-16 stand allowed, and claims 5 and 6 stand rejected. Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled, and no claims have been added. Thus, upon entry of the present amendments, only allowed claims 1-4, 7-9 and 11-16 will be pending in the present application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and a Notice of Allowance.

## Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 5 and 6 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by B.W. Williams. Applicants respectfully submit that the present rejection is moot in view of the above cancellation of claims 5 and 6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5 and 6.

## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims stand allowed. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner believes the present application is not allowable for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

Date: May 27, 2004

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